

Pride - How are We Handling It?

I recently spent some time with a good friend of mine from college. He was telling me how good it was to see we (Nick and I) were doing so well. He'd read the web page and was intrigued by how much we had going at the time.

And it hit me.

What we have listed on the site, in many ways, is the outworking of the way I've let pride get in the way. One great thing about having a web page is that you can allow people all over the world to know what is going on at their leisure. The bad thing is that we don't often like to put in news that might make us look bad, or give someone else the credit. It's like those Christmas letters people sometimes send out to brag about how their families are doing.

Not that there is anything wrong with having everything go right, but there is a verse that has been very convicting to me ever since Nick and I began talking about moving to LA.

"For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses his soul?" - Luke 9:25.

Anyone can struggle with pride. But I have been wrestling with it for a while now. What is all of this hoopla for? Is this website anything more than just a way for Nick and I to promote ourselves? Or is there something deeper?

Let me tell you honestly. I know this to be true. I KNOW it. It is not worth gaining the world if you lose your soul. To be more explicit, it is not worth abandoning the free gift Jesus Christ offers us by His death on the cross for anything in the world. OR for the joy of *sharing* that gift. So, while I am working, being blessed with the modest successes which I am grateful for, I have to tell you that the moments in the last few months that have meant the most are those when God speaks to me about the need for the gospel. Or else, when God shares something new about Himself with me. Or when we've gotten together with other believers and seriously, honestly, shared Jesus with each other. This has become increasingly harder for me since I continually feel like my success needs to top that of the others... I'm working on that.

Recently, the book Operation World has been impacting me. I strongly recommend getting a copy of this book. It is essentially an almanac of every country in the world and how we can pray for them. I have never been very internationally minded in my life. However, God is really speaking to me. Also, since God is working through "In the Night" in its being distributed in Romania through Alfa Omega on TV and through their tape ministry, it has spoken to me that Christian films speak not just here, but to the world.

According to the book, an estimated 90% of Latvia has seen the Jesus Film. 90%! In a country where only 2% of the population regularly attends church! This is humbling. I am so in awe of how God can get His Word out. And He does it His way.

But still more convicting is the fact that I do not want my pride to get in the way. While we are working on expanding into short animation and a possible new web ministry, I want to admit to everyone that all of the glory belongs to God. As the book of Job could easily say to me: "Have you entered the storehouses of the snow, or have you seen the storehouses of the hail... can you lift your voice to the clouds so that an abundance of water will cover you?" (Job 38 NASB).

Simply put, God is God and I am not. No matter how big it seems like we get, it is God who is bigger. And He is in charge. That being said, He gets the glory. To God be the glory. And may His Word spread throughout the world!

Please pray for us to listen to the leading of God and not to get so full of ourselves that we neglect His desire for our lives. I don't want to get in the way. Thank God for His forgiveness!

I don't know where the verse is, but I know the song lyrics: "I must decrease, He must increase". Amen.

Sincerely,
Chris Staron